



JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
23 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE

SUSAN A. GENDRON  
COMMISSIONER

**Exhibit #V.A.**

**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education

**FROM:** Susan A. Gendron, Commissioner\*

**DATE:** October 15, 2003

**SUBJECT:** Major Capital Improvement Program; *Concept Approval Consideration*; SAD #57; new middle school project.

**STATEMENT OF FACT**

Below is a brief description of the proposed SAD #57 new middle school construction project to be located in Waterboro. The proposal is to build a new 800-pupil middle school to house grades 7 and 8. The present Massabesic Junior High School building will be renovated at local expense for an elementary school that will relieve overcrowding at the Waterboro Elementary School. School Administrative District #57 requests that it be granted Concept Approval. This Concept Approval is being requested pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 20-A, Section 15905(1).

***Project Information:***

Project: SAD #57 Middle School  
Superintendent: Dr. Fred Bechard, Superintendent  
Principal: Dennis Ela  
Architect: Herb Semple, Semple & Drane Architects

***Superintendent Dr. Fred Bechard has provided the following project information:***

School Administrative District #57 is made up of the six towns of Alfred, Limerick, Lyman, Newfield, Shapleigh and Waterboro, Maine. The latest federal census reports the District has 18,400 citizens. We continue to grow by leaps and bounds due to our proximity to the coastal and large-community work sites that requires an abundant labor force. The school district has been in need of a new middle school (grades seven and eight) for the entire 12-year period that I have served as Superintendent of Schools. Programming issues, severe overcrowding, and a strong commitment from our local citizens more than underscore the need.

The present junior high facility has 180 students beyond design capacity. Presently there are 12 portable classrooms on site (six double-wide modulars). Approval of this project will allow the school district to eliminate the 12 portables on site and an additional 12 portables at the elementary school, and provide a quality educational environment for grade seven and grade eight students in the District.

The current academic programs at Massabesic Junior High School have suffered greatly from the lack of adequate facilities. The gym doubles as a cafeteria for over one and a half hours a day. Various disciplines, including some Special Education and Title I program offerings, are held in open corridors and adjacent to emergency exits. Music is often offered on a “space available” basis because the music room must be used for other classes. Of special concern is that seventh and eighth grade science classes are taught in regular classes with no provision for water, propane, sinks, or lab equipment of any kind.

***Project Budget Information:***

Estimated Project Cost: \$ 22,749,907

Local Share (No State Participation): \$ 2,432,471

Anticipated Energy Grant: \$ 120,000

Approved for Inclusion in Debt Service: \$ 20,197,436

**DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION**

The Department of Education recommends that the State Board grant Concept Approval to SAD #57 for the new middle school construction project and approve the budget.

**CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

At its meeting on October 7, 2003, the Construction Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to SAD #57 for a new 800-pupil middle school serving grades seven and eight to be located in Waterboro, Maine.

\*Prepared by the School Facilities Services Team